

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



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****ADVISORY – Important Information****

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TO: Epidemiologists, HETL, Local Public Health Liaisons, City of Portland Health Department, City of Bangor Health Department, Tribal Health Centers, Border Medical Officers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Home Health Agencies, Infection Control Practitioners, Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Physician Practices, Private Laboratories, Hospital labs, MMA, NNEPC, Local Health Officers, Public Health Required, Public Health Nursing, Federal Agencies

FROM: Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director

SUBJECT: Cyclosporiasis Cluster in Maine

DATE: Tuesday, July 08, 2014

TIME: 10:30am

PAGES: 2

PRIORITY: Normal

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Cluster of Cyclosporiasis in Maine - June, 2014

Background:

Four cases of cyclosporiasis were reported to Maine CDC from June 24-July 7th. The last known case reported in a Maine resident was in 2010, however cyclosporiasis is not a reportable condition in Maine. Tests are pending on two symptomatic contacts of one case. Onsets of illness for three cases occurred from May 27th – June 15th.

Cyclosporiasis is a gastrointestinal illness caused by *Cyclospora cayetanensis*. Illness is caused by consuming contaminated food and water. Symptoms include: watery diarrhea, (with frequent, sometimes explosive stools), loss of appetite, weight loss, abdominal cramping/bloating, increased flatus, nausea, and prolonged fatigue. Vomiting, body aches, low-grade fever, and other flu-like symptoms may be noted. If untreated, relapse may occur. Cyclosporiasis is treated with trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole.

Testing Recommendations:

- Most laboratories do not test for *Cyclospora* as part of a routine O&P
- Healthcare provider should specifically request *Cyclospora* testing if a patient presents with compatible illness
- Patients might need to provide several specimens collected on different days as people who are symptomatic might not shed enough oocysts in their stool to be readily detected by lab testing

Cyclosporiasis is not a reportable condition in Maine due to the low number of cases in previous years (last known case in Maine resident in 2010). However, due to large numbers of cases in the United States in 2013, Maine CDC is requesting providers report cyclosporiasis cases as an unusual condition, since it is not commonly seen in Maine residents.

Other enteric diseases of concern in Maine:

Enteric pathogens of concern in summer months include: norovirus, *Vibrio*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Shigella*, shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*. Testing for vibrio is not commonly part of a routine bacterial stool culture and may require specific test orders. Please contact your laboratory for instructions specimen submission for enteric diseases.

Maine CDC recommends that health care providers consider testing for enteric disease pathogens when evaluating patients with GI illness, especially in:

- hospitalized individuals
- patients reporting attending a large event/camp with others who are reported to be ill
- patients with symptoms compatible with uncommon pathogens, such as *Vibrio* or *Cyclospora*

Reporting:

Please report all suspect and laboratory confirmed cases of notifiable diseases or unusual conditions (such as cyclosporiasis) to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821 or by fax to 1-800-293-7534. Recognized clusters of illness or suspected outbreaks must be reported to Maine CDC immediately upon suspicion, by calling the 24 hour Disease Reporting and Consultation Hotline at 1-800-821-5821.

For more information:

Cyclosporiasis: <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/>

State laboratory specimen submission information: www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab

Disease specific information: www.maine.gov/idepi